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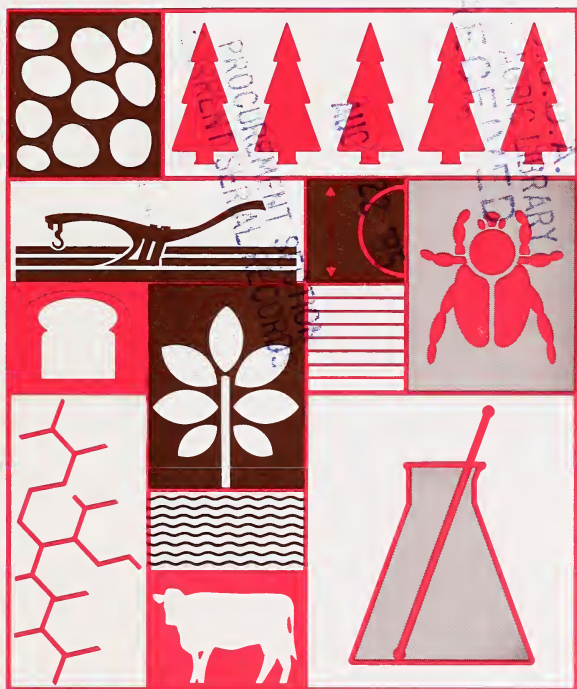
U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Research Service

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Agricultural Inventions:

How to Apply for
a Patent License



Patent License Program

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Criteria for meeting exclusive licenses are:

- best serves the interest of the public,
- desired practical application of the invention has not been achieved,
- practical application of the invention is not likely to be achieved expeditiously under a nonexclusive license, and
- exclusive or partially exclusive license is a reasonable and necessary incentive to promote the investment of risk capital to bring the invention to practical application.

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Office of Federal Patent Licensing
P.O. Box 1423
Springfield, VA 22161

Administration and granting of nonexclusive patent licenses are the responsibility of the ARS Patent Management Office. See address below.

How To Apply

Prospective licensees may obtain an application form (AD-761) from

Coordinator, Patent Management Office
USDA-ARS, Office of the Administrator
Room 325, Building 003, BARC-W
Beltsville, MD 20705

All applicants must furnish basic business information and a description of a development or marketing plan for the invention. The plan submitted is kept confidential.

Applications will be evaluated to assure that the intended use will not contravene the purpose of the license agreement.

License Provisions

Licensees are required to report at least annually on their utilization or efforts to utilize the patent. These reports may be kept confidential.

Products sold by the licensee through use of the patent must generally be manufactured substantially in the United States.

A license may be for all or less than all fields of use of the invention or in a specific geographic area, or both.

The license is nonassignable without approval of USDA. It may, however, be extended to subsidiaries of the licensee.

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Additional Information

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USDA-owned patents and patent applications are published periodically in the Federal Register and in the Official Gazette of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. These publications are available from

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Government Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20402

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U.S. Department of Commerce
5285 Port Royal Road
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NTIS also sells copies of pending patent applications in both paper copy or microfiche form. Requests for copies must include the patent application serial number. To obtain these copies, write to NTIS at the address previously given.

License Catalog

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Coordinator, Patent Management Office
USDA-ARS, Office of the Administrator
Room 325, Building 003, BARC-W
Beltsville, MD 20705

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